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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 64
By Fowler

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate John Eugene Fowler
on the celebration of his 70th birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, on February 15, 1931, John Eugene Fowler, the youngest son of John Ardee Fowler and Amanda Estella Holcomb, was born at home on his parent's farm in Ringgold, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, on the family farm, John Fowler learned the values of hard work and personal responsibility, learning from his father Solomon's reminder that, "a man diligent in his work will stand before kings"; and

WHEREAS, taking this advice to heart, John E. Fowler graduated with honors from Ringgold High School, and subsequently attended McKenzie Business College; and

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WHEREAS, his first job was with Combustion Engineering in Chattanooga, but he soon enlisted in the United States Air Force, after learning that promotion was unlikely due to the risk that he could be drafted any day to fight in the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, after boot camp, Mr. Fowler was stationed at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, on November 25, 1951, John Eugene Fowler took his first military leave to travel all night by bus to Ringgold, Georgia to marry his high school sweetheart, Lassie Aileen Brown, of Rossville, Georgia, who his grandmother Holcomb had "spotted" for him at a church singing held in his home; and

WHEREAS, John Fowler's hard work and ability to solve continuing problems with the Base's accounting processes allowed him to advance rapidly to the rank of staff sergeant; and

WHEREAS, in addition to holding down his normal duties, he also played the organ for several Base church services, while his young bride directed the choirs she had organized; and

WHEREAS, upon being honorably discharged from the service, John Eugene Fowler returned to the Fairview area of North Georgia, where he began to work and attend the University of Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, he graduated, with honors, from the University of Tennessee in June, 1958, and went to work for the Atomic Energy Commission in Oak Ridge, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, on June 30, 1958, with the birth of his only son, David Eugene Fowler, John became the best father a son ever had; and

WHEREAS, on December 1, 1958, he joined the Chattanooga accounting firm of Turnbull and Orr, and in 1965, became a partner in the newly renamed firm of Turnbull, Orr and Fowler; and

WHEREAS, John Fowler had the vision to foresee the opportunities arising from the creation of the federal Medicaid program, and to develop expertise in hospital cost accounting; diligently taking advantage of these opportunities, he started his own accounting firm of Fowler, Perlman and Associates; and

WHEREAS, Fowler, Perlman and Associates became one of the foremost accounting firms in the United States in the field of hospital accounting, eventually being acquired by the international accounting firm of KMG Main Hurdman; and

WHEREAS, he was committed to his community, and served as President of the Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants and as the first Treasurer of Siskin Rehabilitation Hospital; he also served astutely as a member of the boards of directors of the Tennessee Hospital Association and the Chattanooga Opera Association; and

WHEREAS, John E. Fowler was also committed to his Christian faith and directed church choirs for many years in several Chattanooga area churches; he served as the guest musician for many revivals in the Chattanooga area, during which he lead the revival choirs and sang duets with his wife, Aileen; and

WHEREAS, John Eugene Fowler was a devoted husband, demonstrating his lifelong love for Aileen by his tender care for her in the final months of her bout with cancer; and

WHEREAS, John Fowler is also a devoted father, catching a countless number of footballs, playing numerous games of ping pong, and never missing one of his son's athletic contests; and

WHEREAS, in all these things and more, he taught his son the lessons he had learned from his father, and provided him with the support and encouragement he needed to establish his own family, make his way in the world, and know the God who made him; and

WHEREAS, after the death of his high school sweetheart, John E. Fowler was blessed to meet Katherine Philp, whom he married on March 24, 1996; and

WHEREAS, by himself, his son cannot bestow on his father an honor that could equal his love, a tribute that could match his devotion, or an award that could repay his provision; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate John Eugene Fowler on the celebration of his 70th birthday and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.